(i) substitution of Ile_{96} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(ii) substitution of His_{95} by Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe, or Tyr, an N-alkyl derivative of His, Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe or Tyr, or a D-form of His, Asp, Glu, Ser, Thr, Phe or Tyr;

(iii) substitution of Val_{94} by Ala, His or Phe, or a D-form of Val, Ala, His or Phe;

(iv) substitution of Ala_{92} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

(v) substitution of Val_{91} by Ala or Gly;

(vi) substitution of Thr_{90} by Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Ala, Val or Pro; and

(vii) substitution of Val_{89} by a hydrophobic amino acid residue;

E' cont

with the proviso that the residue at 89 is not Leu, the residue at 90 is not Glu, the residue at 91 is not Ala, the residue at 92 is not Ile, the residue at 94 is not Val, the residue at 95 is not Ser, and the residue at 96 is not Ile all at the same time;

(C) a peptide obtained by elongation of (A) or (B) at the N- and/or C-terminal, but not including the entire CRP; or

(D) an amide of the C-terminal of (A), (B), or (C), and/or an N-acyl derivative of (A), (B), or (C).

Please amend claims 2, 3, 5, 9 and 12 as follows:

2 (Twice-amended). A peptide according to claim 25, wherein the hydrophobic amino acid residue is selected from the group of residues consisting of Leu, Ile, Val, Phe, Tyr, Nle and Nva.

E2

3 (Twice-amended). A peptide according to claim 25(C), wherein the peptide is elongated by additional amino acid residues at the N-terminal.

5 (Twice-amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 25(D), wherein acyl is a radical R-X-CO-, wherein R is substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl and X is a covalent bond, O, NH, or NHCO.

E3

8 (Thrice-amended). A peptide according to claim 25, selected from the group of sequences consisting of:

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (residues 89-96 of SEQ ID NO:3);

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-(D)His-Ile;

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-His-Ile;

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-(D)His-Ile;

E4

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Ser-Ile (SEQ ID NO:8);

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Phe-Ile (SEQ ID NO:9);

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:13);

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:10);

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Phe-His-Ile-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:11);

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:12);

MeOSuc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13);

MeOSuc-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:14);

Octanoyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13);

Acetylaminocaproyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13);

AdamantylNH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13);

E4 cont

α-Naphthyl-NH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13);

CBz-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13);

CBz-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:14); and

Fmoc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13),

wherein CBz is carbobenzoxy, MeOSuc is monomethoxysuccinyl and Fmoc is 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl.